

People Born Outside the United States

June 2008

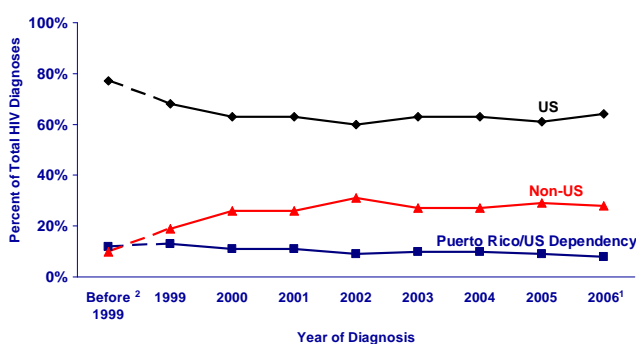
Introduction

Immigrants and refugees, people born outside the United States (US) and its territories, are estimated to make up 12% of the population of Massachusetts. The immigrant and refugee population of Massachusetts is very diverse with almost every country in the world represented. Refugees and immigrants living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts are also a very diverse group (114 countries represented) and are predominantly people of color (88%). They accounted for 19% of people living with HIV/AIDS on December 31, 2007 and their proportional representation has been increasing over time. The proportion of non-US-born among those with HIV infection diagnoses increased from 18% in 1999 to 28% in 2006.

General Statistics:

- Within the three-year period 2004 to 2006, 719 people born outside the United States were reported to be diagnosed with HIV infection, representing 28% of reported HIV diagnoses in Massachusetts during that time period.
- The proportion of HIV infection diagnoses among people born outside the United States has risen in the past 6 years from 18% in 1999 to 28% in 2006.

Figure 1. Percentage Distribution of People Diagnosed with HIV Infection by Place of Birth and Year of Diagnosis: Massachusetts, Before 1999, 1999–2006¹



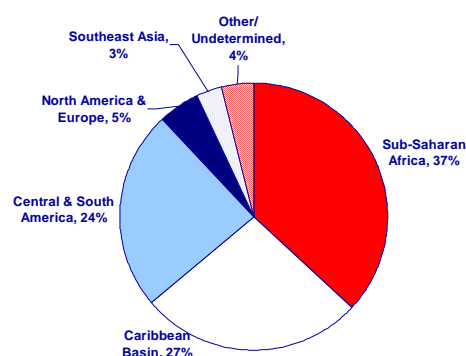
¹ 2006 data are preliminary; ² Note: a dashed line is used to distinguish between pre-1999 data (which is an aggregate of multiple years before the implementation of HIV surveillance in 1999) and annual data for subsequent years. Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program; Data as of 1/1/08

- As of December 31, 2007, there were 3,301 people known to be living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts who were born outside the United States, accounting for 19% of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts.

World Region and Country of Origin:

- People born outside the United States and diagnosed with HIV infection in Massachusetts within the three-year period 2004 to 2006 were primarily from Sub-Saharan Africa (37%), the Caribbean Basin (27%), and Central and South America (24%).

Figure 2. People Born Outside the US and Diagnosed with HIV Infection in Massachusetts Within the Years 2004 to 2006 by World Region of Origin



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 1/1/08

- Among non-US-born females recently diagnosed with HIV infection, 54% were from Sub-Saharan Africa compared to 24% of the males, 28% were from the Caribbean Basin compared to 26% of the males and 10% were from Central and South America compared to 34% of the males.

The following five countries represent the country of birth for the largest numbers of non-US-born people diagnosed with HIV infection in Massachusetts within the three-year period 2004 to 2006 (with percent of total non-US-born diagnosed with HIV infection):

- Haiti 15% (N=105)
- Brazil 9% (N=64)
- Dominican Republic 8% (N=57)
- Kenya 5% (N=37)
- Cape Verde 5% (N=34)

Regional Distribution:

The Northeast (40%) and Metro West (39%) Health Service Regions (HSRs) had the largest proportions of people recently diagnosed with HIV infection who were born outside the United States. In all regions but the Western HSR, people born outside the United States comprise more than 20% of all recent diagnoses. The Metro West (32%), Northeast (25%) and Boston (23%) HSRs have the highest proportions of non-US-born people living with HIV/AIDS.

Among cities with over 20 people diagnosed with HIV infection within the three-year period 2004 to 2006, the following have the highest proportions of diagnoses among non-US-born people (N=number of people born outside the United States diagnosed with HIV infection):

- Everett 79% (N=24)
- Waltham 75% (N=28)
- Chelsea 65% (N=26)
- Malden 53% (N=45)
- Somerville 52% (N=54)
- Framingham 48% (N=33)
- Lowell 46% (N=80)
- Brockton 41% (N=66)
- Haverhill 41% (N=22)
- Lynn 41% (N=49)

Gender:

- Forty-four percent of non-US-born people recently diagnosed with HIV infection were female (and 56% were male), compared to 20% among those born in the United States and 31% among those born in Puerto Rico and other US dependencies (Commonwealths, territories and other entities that are supported and governed by the United States).
- Among non-US-born people living with HIV/AIDS, 41% are female compared to 25% of those born in the United States and 32% of those born in Puerto Rico and other US dependencies.

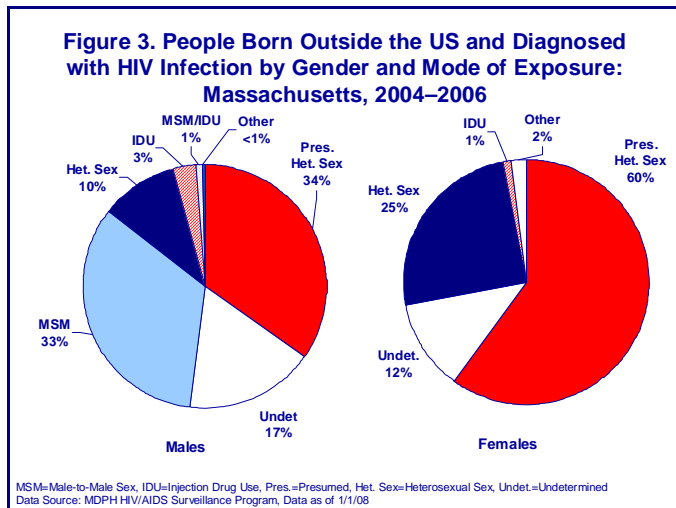
Race and Ethnicity:

- Among non-US-born people diagnosed with HIV infection within the three-year period 2004 to 2006, 10% were white (non-Hispanic), 58% were black (non-Hispanic), 27% were Hispanic, and 4% were Asian/Pacific Islander.
- Similarly, among non-US-born people living with HIV/AIDS, 12% are white (non-Hispanic), 58% are black (non-Hispanic), 25% are Hispanic, and 5% are Asian/Pacific Islander.
- Seventy-four percent of non-US-born females recently diagnosed with HIV infection were black (non-Hispanic) compared to 45% of males; 18% were Hispanic compared to 34% of males and 4% were white (non-Hispanic) compared to 14% of males.

Exposure Mode:

- Among people born outside the United States and diagnosed with HIV infection within the three-year period 2004 to 2006, 46% (N=330) were presumed exposed to HIV through heterosexual sex with partners of unknown risk or HIV status (presumed heterosexual); 17% (N=120) identified the HIV risk or status of their heterosexual partner and were classified as exposed through heterosexual sex; 19% (N=135) were exposed through male-to-male sex (MSM), while an additional 2% (N=17) were reported to have been exposed through their own injection drug use.

- Among non-US-born people living with HIV/AIDS on December 31, 2007, the distribution of exposure modes is similar to that among non-US-born individuals recently diagnosed with HIV infection. Forty-three percent (N=1,405) were presumed to have been exposed to HIV through heterosexual sex with partners of unknown risk or HIV status (presumed heterosexual); 20% (N=671) identified the HIV risk or status of their heterosexual partner and were classified as exposed through heterosexual sex. Nineteen percent (N=639) were exposed through male-to-male sex (MSM), while an additional 5% (N=152) were exposed through their own injection drug use.
- Among non-US-born people with HIV infection and AIDS, large proportions were classified with undetermined risk for HIV infection: 15% (N=108) of those recently diagnosed with HIV infection and 11% (N=364) of those living with HIV/AIDS. This reflects challenges in ascertaining behavioral risk information about some non-US-born individuals.



- Complete information about mode of exposure to HIV infection does not exist for nearly three-quarters of females born outside the United States and recently diagnosed with HIV infection: for 60% there was no information about the risk or HIV status of the male sex partner reported (presumed heterosexual exposure) and for 12% there was no information about risk reported (undetermined exposure).

People Diagnosed with HIV Infection and AIDS within Two Months

People who already have AIDS when HIV infection is diagnosed (or who are diagnosed with AIDS within 2 months of HIV infection diagnosis) represent a population that may have first learned about their HIV status late in the progression of HIV disease. It is likely that people who are diagnosed with both HIV infection and AIDS within two months have been infected for more time prior to learning their HIV status than people who learn their status more than two months before presenting with clinical AIDS.

- Thirty-eight percent of people born outside the US who were diagnosed with HIV infection within the three-year period 2004 to 2006 already had AIDS when they were diagnosed (or were diagnosed within 2 months), compared to 26% of people born in the US and 25% of people born in Puerto Rico and other US Dependencies.

Mortality with HIV/AIDS

- The proportion of deaths among people with HIV/AIDS who were non-US-born remained relatively steady from 1999 to 2006, between 5% and 10% of all people dying with HIV/AIDS.

Data Source:

HIV/AIDS Case Data: Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of January 1, 2008

Additional References of Interest:

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For more detailed information and a description of data limitations please see "HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts: An Epidemiologic Profile," available online at www.mass.gov/dph/aids